

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 06945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF OECD MINISTERIAL DATES

REF: USOECD 6817

1. AS EXPECTED, NO FIRM DECISION ON OECD MINISTERIAL DATES WAS TAKEN DURING MARCH 18 COUNCIL MEETING. IRISH DEL POINTED TO EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 26 AND SUGGESTED THAT, IF IEA MINISTERIAL WERE TO BE HELD MAY 27, OECD MINISTERIAL SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28-29. FRENCH PERMREP OPPOSED ANY CHANGE FROM MAY 27-28 DATES WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY HIS MINISTERS, NOTING THAT CONFLICT WITH REGULAR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WOULD PREVENT HIS MINISTER FROM ATTENDING FULL OECD MINISTERIAL FOR MORE THAN HALF DAY. UK PERMREP SAID HMG WOULD FAVOR MAY 28-29 DATES IF IEA MINISTERIAL WERE SET FOR MAY 27. HE SUGGESTED THAT DECISION ON OECD MEETING BE DEFERRED UNTIL GOVERNING BOARD DECIDED DEFINITELY ON IEA MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, A DECISION WHICH HE EXPECTED TO EMERGE FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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MARCH 20. AMB. TURNER SAID WE COULD ACCEPT EITHER SET

OF DATES PROPOSED FOR OECD MEETING, PROVIDED THE FULL PRECEDING DAY WERE SET ASIDE FOR IEA MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

2. SUMMING UP, SECGEN VAN LENNEP PROPOSED THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT MAY 28-29 DATES FOR PLANNING PURPOSES BUT DEFER FINAL DECISION UNTIL COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 21 BY WHICH TIME GOVERNING BOARD COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE MADE ITS DECISION ON IEA MINISTERIAL. IF, FOR ANY REASON, IEA DOES NOT DECIDE UPON GOVERNING BOARD MINISTERIAL MEETING, OECD SHOULD REVERT TO MAY 27-28 FOR ITS MEETING. WHILE SEVERAL DELS, INCLUDING GERMAN, WERE UNCERTAIN AS TO THEIR MINISTERS' AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 28-29 MEETING, ONLY FRENCH REP REMAINED TOTALLY OPPOSED TO CHANGE IN DATES AND RESERVED HIS POSITION. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD TAKE UP THIS QUESTION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS BY FRIDAY COUNCIL MEETING.
TURNER

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